United Nations A/C.2/64/SR.20

General Assembly
Sixty-fourth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
19 November 2009

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 20th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 23 October 2009, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Mićić (Vice-Chairperson) ..... (Serbia)
later: Mr. García González (Vice-Chairperson) ..... (El Salvador)

Contents

Agenda item 57: Eradication of poverty and other development issues (*continued*)

Agenda item 60: Agriculture development and food security (*continued*)

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

09-57435 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 57: Eradication of poverty and other development issues (*continued*) (A/C.2/64/L.4)

Draft resolution on the legal empowerment of the poor and eradication of poverty

1. **Mr. Briz Gutiérrez** (Guatemala) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.4.

2. *Mr. García González (El Salvador), Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.*

Agenda item 60: Agriculture development and food security (*continued*) (A/64/65 and A/64/221)

3. **Mr. Ström** (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that sustainable agriculture was not only vital to food production, but also to eliminating the unemployment and poverty that were the cause of most hunger and malnutrition. The European Union had increased the share of the agricultural sector in its Official Development Assistance (ODA) and had already allocated 700 million of the 1 billion euros set aside for its Food Facility established in 2008. He called on other donors to follow suit, and in that regard strongly welcomed the Group of Eight (G-8) initiative taken at the L'Aquila summit to mobilize 20 billion dollars over the next three years, over half of which would come from European Union Member States.

4. Not just food production, but access to food needed to be addressed. Increasing incomes, creating jobs and expanding social protection were just as important as improved farming techniques, and special attention should be paid to the role of women in agriculture. A successful and timely conclusion to the Doha Round that lowered market access barriers and eliminated export subsidies would also help to create economic growth and improve food security in developing countries. While food needs created by disasters and conflicts needed to be met, emergency food aid should not be allowed to disrupt normal market activity, and should be procured locally whenever possible. Attention needed be paid to the linkages among humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and development. Creative ways of using social protection and safety nets to help developing countries out of the financial crisis should continue to be developed and tested.

5. National and regional food security policies that adapted traditional practices to new conditions were crucial to fostering sustainable agriculture. The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) should be a reference framework for donors and development partners. The reforms of the Committee on World Food Security of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) approved the previous week in Rome would be an important pillar of the Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security scheduled to be launched at the World Summit on Food Security to be held in that same city in November 2009. United Nations agencies such as FAO, the World Food Program (WFP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), as well as the international financial institutions needed to work together and deliver as one at the country level, and he welcomed the work of the Secretary-General's High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis in that regard. It was imperative to learn from successful experiences where the confluence of science, policy and leadership had resulted in national ownership, efficient support agencies and effective partnerships. Attention should also be paid to the role agriculture could play in mitigating the effects of climate change.

6. **Mr. Talbot** (Guyana), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), which associated itself with the statement made by the representative of the Sudan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that agriculture, including fisheries and forestry, were crucial to sustainable development in the Caribbean region. CARICOM leaders had identified the key factors holding back their region's agricultural development in the Liliendaal Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security adopted at their thirtieth meeting in July 2009, and had launched the Jagdeo Initiative to correct those deficiencies and help make their region's agricultural sector internationally competitive. Declining agricultural development investment was the major constraint on any corrective measures, and he welcomed the Secretary-General's call for concerted support from the international community in the form of stable and predictable financial support. Such support would be needed in particular to implement measures to adapt to climate change, which was the single greatest challenge to sustainable development in his region.

7. Efforts by CARICOM Governments to counteract the lingering impact of the previous year's food price crisis and provide resources to foster agricultural development would be greatly facilitated by assistance from international development partners. The multilateral trading system needed to become more rational and less discriminatory, and a balanced and fair outcome to the Doha Development Round would do much to restore its credibility. The upcoming World Summit on Food Security would provide an opportunity to review global patterns of food distribution that allowed the number of hungry people to rise even though the amount of food the world produced was sufficient to feed the global population. The use of biofuels should be increased in a sustainable manner that did not compromise food security.

8. **Mr. Jiménez Sauma** (Mexico), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, said that the Group was pursuing a wide range of agricultural initiatives at the local, national, regional and international levels aimed not only at helping its member States that relied heavily on agriculture, but also at bridging disparities between advantaged and disadvantaged groups. It advocated an integrated approach to food security that included a renewed commitment to the Latin American and Caribbean without Hunger 2025 initiative. The Committee should promote the human rights perspective with respect to the right to food, which was central to all the other issues on the Committee's agenda. The recent slight decline in food prices did not mean that the food crisis had been solved: if anything, the root causes had become more deeply entrenched and global action on food security more urgent than ever.

9. The decision of the Commission on Sustainable Development to develop a strategy that integrated the response to the food crisis with responses to other challenges was commendable. Investment in agriculture from both public and private sources needed to be stepped up and development assistance commitments more closely monitored. Both the causes and effects of price volatility needed to be addressed and the relationship between agriculture and climate change thoroughly examined. The reform of the Committee on World Food Security was a positive step towards better global food governance, but a successful conclusion to the Doha round was essential to removing distortions in global agricultural trade. Greater attention needed to be devoted to rural infrastructure and the needs of the poor, small landholders, indigenous peoples, women and youth. The upcoming World Summit on Food Security would provide an opportunity to ensure a more integrated, coherent and holistic treatment of global food security.

10. **Mr. Matenje** (Malawi), speaking on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), which aligned itself with the statement made by the representative of the Sudan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the statement made by the representative of Nepal on behalf of the least developed countries, said that the food, agriculture and natural resources sector was crucial to ensuring food security, fighting poverty and providing employment in Southern Africa. His region had been unable to exploit its diversified natural resource base to the full because the necessary technology was out of the reach of many of its countries. That held back the productivity of small farmers whose workforces had already been decimated by HIV/AIDS. As population growth put additional pressure on resources, coordinated interventions by all stakeholders were necessary to ensure conservation and sustainability. SADC member States were harmonizing their national agricultural policies through the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan and the 2004 Dar es Salaam Declaration and Plan of Action on Agriculture and Food Security. At their November 2008 meeting, SADC agriculture ministers had agreed on the need for a regional policy on agriculture and food security, and SADC Governments were committed to increasing their investment in agriculture by a minimum of 10 per cent.

11. Climate change was as much to blame as fluctuations in global markets for the SADC region's low productivity. He hoped that the political will generated by the Secretary-General's September 2009 High-level Summit on Climate Change would carry through to the December 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Copenhagen. He commended the Comprehensive Framework for Action developed by the Task Force on food security, which stressed the need for both immediate emergency relief and long-term global food security, and welcomed the November 2009 World Summit on Food Security as an opportunity to address the issue of food security holistically. He called on the developed countries and international financial institutions to make good on their financial pledges to the developing countries.

12. **Ms. Blum** (Colombia) said that the financial and climate change crises had made a strategic and effective approach to global food security more urgent. Progress towards a free and fair multilateral trading system would encourage greater public and private agricultural investment. Productivity needed to be increased in a sustainable fashion, and climate change adaptation in developing countries should be a priority. Action was also needed to improve access to food, especially by the most vulnerable groups, and international cooperation in cases calling for emergency humanitarian assistance must be strengthened. Her country's policy on food security was based on the fundamental right to food, social equality, environmental sustainability and respect for cultural diversity, and it enjoyed a sufficient food supply that had not been adversely affected by biofuel production.

13. **Mr. Carbajal** (United States of America) said that food security was perhaps the most important key to sustainable development. At the L'Aquila summit, his country had pledged 3.5 billion dollars over the next three years to promote agricultural growth in the developing world. It advocated a comprehensive approach consistent with the Accra Agenda for Action. He expressed support for the work of the Task Force on food security, FAO, the Committee on World Food Security and the soon-to-be launched Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security. CAADP was a model that could be profitably followed in other regions.

14. Country-led and regional strategies were the core vehicles for promoting agricultural investment in developing countries. Accountability, flexibility and international cooperation should be the cornerstones of international financing for development. Developed countries should honour the investment commitments made at the L'Aquila summit while maintaining existing levels of emergency food assistance. As had been stressed during the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the lessons of the past should be drawn on to improve resource management, and FAO reforms should proceed in a timely and transparent fashion.

15. **Mr. Liu** Yuyin (China) said that the persistence of high rates of hunger around the world threatened both economic development and world peace. Food security should be a priority in economic recovery plans, with developed countries providing the financial and technical input necessary for developing countries to increase their production. An integrated approach was required that addressed finance, trade assistance, the environment, intellectual property rights and technology transfer, as well as how to balance biofuel production against the need for food security. International cooperation needed to be strengthened, and the developed countries should display more flexibility in the Doha Round agricultural negotiations.

16. His country was close to being fully self-sufficient in food, with high exports and tariffs that were a quarter of the world's average. It had contributed food aid, technical assistance and financial support to many other developing countries, especially in Africa, and would continue to share its experience and expertise within the framework of South-South cooperation.

17. **Ms. Leiva Roesch** (Guatemala) said that despite its great agricultural potential, her country's large numbers of small farmers engaging in subsistence agriculture made it uniquely susceptible to disruptions caused by market disequilibriums or natural disasters, so that it had had to declare a national emergency during the 2008 food crisis. The Comprehensive Framework for Action developed by the High-level Task Force on food security was commendable, and she hoped that the November 2009 World Summit on Food Security would provide an opportunity to advance the emerging global consensus on food security and sustainable agriculture.

18. **Mr. Guillén** (Peru) said that while food production in Peru had continued to rise in recent years despite climate change, it could well be adversely affected in future by related phenomena, in particular drought. Additional pressure on agricultural production in the country, which had one of the lowest per capita rates of agricultural land use in the world, could give rise to serious problems of food security. Already the demand for biofuels had led to a rise in the price of basic food crops, which could gravely affect the well-being of the population, particularly the poorest. Investments in biofuel crops should therefore take into account food security, environmental and ecological impact, appropriate land and water management, biodiversity preservation, social impact and technological development.

19. Traditional agricultural knowledge and know-how, including pre-Hispanic hydraulic systems, formed

part of Peru's strategy for addressing the problems of climate change, water scarcity and agricultural vulnerability. The complementarity of traditional and modern knowledge and technology, could likewise be a source of innovative solutions for other countries in their efforts to adapt to future climate scenarios.

20. **Mr. Khan** (Pakistan) said that the recent rise in food prices combined with the effects of climate change had led to an unacceptable rise in the number of people in Pakistan exposed to food insecurity — some half of its population, according to WFP. His country also had the particular challenge of feeding large numbers of people displaced as a result of counter-terrorism measures. Yet the Government remained steadfast in its efforts to achieve sustained economic growth and prosperity. The main pillar of its strategy was agriculture growth and development: agriculture was a major source of income in Pakistan and had strategic links with the manufacturing sector. Increased agricultural productivity was therefore a key objective, pursued by way of incentives to farmers, development of high-yield, disease-resistant wheat and rice, water conservation and an enhanced support price for wheat; food security was also being promoted through more liberal conditions for importing essential food commodities.

21. Pakistan was actively involved in a number of United Nations, bilateral and non-governmental initiatives aimed at achieving greater socio-economic development and security and overcoming the challenge of terrorism and extremism. Agriculture was a core element in all of them. However, higher agricultural output called for a strong influx of capital, expertise and technology from developed countries: unfortunately, delivery of financial and technical assistance by developed countries to developing countries had fallen short of pledges.

22. In order to address food security challenges sustainably, a comprehensive, integrated and coherent global strategy was required, based on national, regional and international multi-stakeholder partnerships, aimed at promoting investments in agriculture infrastructure, providing technological support to developing countries, particularly in agricultural research and development, addressing water issues, enhancing and supplementing ODA, countering excessive speculation in commodity futures and developing a mechanism to monitor progress towards the internationally agreed goals. However, the only real long-term solution to the problems of food security and agriculture development lay in free and fair trade. Pakistan accordingly hoped that negotiations under the auspices of the World Trade Organization would result in an effective, rapid decrease in the protection given to developed countries and in differential treatment for developing countries.

23. **Mr. Meñez** (Philippines) said that just as empowerment of the poor and the involvement of women in development were essential for the eradication of poverty, so agriculture development and food security were key parts of a holistic approach to sustainable development; it was therefore fitting to link those items in the work of the Committee. The recent volatility of food prices had demonstrated to national policymakers as well as to the relevant international organizations that market forces could not be trusted to take care of countries' food needs.

24. The entire issue of food security had recently taken on increased importance in the Philippines in the wake of a series of typhoons that had had a devastating effect on crops, particularly rice. Without immediate help, it would be very difficult for farmers in his country to recover by the end of the year. In that context, and in the spirit of the Committee's policy recommendations, he called for a better understanding at both the national and international levels of governance of the real stakes involved in agriculture development and food security.

25. **Ms. Bensmail** (Algeria) said that the world food crisis had been exacerbated by the global economic and financial crisis and had led to a denial in poor countries of the essential human right to food. The crisis was the consequence of neglected or speculation-driven agriculture, poor trade policy, systemic dysfunctions in the world economy, natural disasters and climate change. A new type of global governance was therefore required, aimed at ensuring coherent, effective action to combat hunger in the world, in particular through regulatory mechanisms. While the international response to famine situations in Africa had always been commendable, it needed to go hand in hand with measures to improve agricultural productivity and competitiveness in that continent. Two international initiatives that merited support in that connection were the efforts under the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to promote a green revolution in Africa and the forthcoming World Summit on Food Security.

26. Algeria's own sustainable development strategy included a national agricultural and rural development plan designed to enhance food security through improved agricultural productivity, combat desertification, protect natural resources, diversify economic activity in rural areas, encourage investment and contribute to agricultural capacity-building.

27. **Ms. Prorok** (Ukraine) said that despite its economic difficulties, Ukraine had assumed its responsibility towards the world's starving masses by donating agricultural produce through WFP; it also supported a number of international and multi-country initiatives to promote agricultural development and food security, in particular recent global forums, and considered that there was a need for stronger institutional cooperation to that end within the United Nations system. Effective international cooperation was a key to global food security, which depended on strengthened, long-term, comprehensive agricultural development in a spirit of global interdependence. Existing comparative advantages in agriculture offered a solid base for the accelerated development of agricultural industries, thereby achieving greater global productivity so as to meet growing food needs. International cooperation in countering the negative impact of climate change, along with innovative technology, optimal assistance for the poorest countries and fair trade, would also contribute to enhanced food security worldwide. Care should also be taken to ensure that biofuel production was not detrimental to food production or to agricultural development in general.

28. The main obstacle to agricultural development in developing countries was the lack of related investment. In Ukraine, too, such investment had fallen by more than half in the space of a year, but it nevertheless remained one of the world's 10 top grain exporters and hoped to be able to export around half of its expected production of 43 million tons in the coming year. It was also a leading exporter of several other products from agriculture, which was the only sector of the national economy that currently showed a constantly growing foreign trade surplus. However, in view of the sharp decrease in financial support from the State, foreign investment was vital; it would benefit from favourable conditions following the measures taken by the Government to stabilize the situation in the agricultural sector and minimize the effects of the global financial crisis. She concluded by calling for increased national, regional and international efforts to address food security and agriculture development as part of the international development agenda.

29. **Ms. Masot** (Cuba) said that, while many factors affected the prices of food, the problem lay essentially in the uneven and unfair distribution of global resources and the growing tendency to concentrate and monopolize the production and distribution of food and agricultural products. Producers in developed countries continued to receive government subsidies, while small farmers in developing countries were in an increasingly precarious position. The rural population in those countries, who accounted for the bulk of the world's people, were consequently being denied their basic human right to food.

30. Hunger would not be eliminated so long as debt servicing consumed disproportionate amounts of import income in developing countries; so long as they paid increasingly high prices for imports and received decreasing amounts for their exports; so long as the international financial system encouraged speculation and the plundering of their resources; and so long as small farmers in the third world did not benefit from genetically improved seeds and new technologies.

31. If all the countries that had undertaken to set aside 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) for official development assistance ODA honoured their word; if they assumed their responsibility for the billion starving people in the world; if they used the resources allocated to military spending to alleviate human suffering; and if developed countries replaced wasteful and destructive patterns of production and consumption by sustainable lifestyles, then the representatives of the world's countries would be able to take on their historic responsibility for eliminating hunger.

32. Her country had actively campaigned within the United Nations in support of the right to food for all and welcomed the Committee's first discussion of the issue of agriculture and food security. Cuba itself had suffered from limited access to food as a result of an economic blockade and was therefore all the more convinced of the need to find solutions to the current global food crisis. The forthcoming Summit on the subject would offer a welcome opportunity to take up that challenge anew.

33. **Mr. Sumi** (Japan) said that enhanced global food security was one of the foreign policy objectives of

Japan, which was currently one of the biggest donors of food aid worldwide. It was particularly active in support of rice production in Africa, through the Japan International Cooperation Agency initiative known as the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD).

34. His Government recognized that food security required a strengthening of sustainable agriculture through greater investment in agricultural and rural development, as well as in institutional capacity-building for research and rural extension work, rural infrastructure, storage facilities and irrigation schemes. It had recently hosted a meeting on promoting responsible international investment in agriculture which had marked the first step towards framing a coordinated response to that challenge and accordingly looked forward to going further into those issues at the forthcoming World Summit on Food Security. Since most of the agriculture sector was composed of poor small farmers in rural areas, the human security approach was particularly relevant to the challenges of food security and agriculture development and had been made one of the main pillars of the Government's foreign policy.

35. **Ms. Song** Hye-ryoung (Republic of Korea), noting that one sixth of the world population suffered from chronic hunger, said that food security could not be achieved without increased financial investment, but that it also required more qualitative approaches and cooperation among all relevant stakeholders. Actions to that end should be in accordance with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action; they should also be incorporated into each developing country's integrated development strategy for eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable economic growth. In addition, commitments by donor countries should respect existing multilateral frameworks.

36. Her country's coordinated and comprehensive approach to enhancing food security was accordingly directed towards strengthening aid effectiveness and furthering sustainable agricultural development, while building upon the central role of United Nations institutions and initiatives, such as the Comprehensive Framework for Action. Its food security support plan tied in with the twin-track approach of the Framework and had taken the form of a $100 million allocation for the period 2009 to 2011 to provide emergency food relief and support agriculture development in developing countries. The projects of the Korean International Cooperation Agency sought to provide first-hand knowledge of various aspects of agricultural development, while the country's bilateral projects were driven by the conviction that agriculture-based food security was a key to sustainable economic growth and development. Moreover, recognizing that food insecurity in the Asia-Pacific region was aggravated by the impact of climate change, the Republic of Korea had launched the East Asia Climate Partnership, to help other countries to adjust their economic growth accordingly. Food security required an action-oriented approach, which he hoped would be adopted at the upcoming World Summit.

37. **Mr. Resnick** (Israel) said that, as a country that had achieved rapid agricultural development, Israel was eager to contribute to international efforts towards that goal. Following the significant progress achieved in mapping out the future course of international action to promote food security, the time had come to shift the focus from what needed to be done to how to bring it about. General Assembly resolution 62/190 contained a number of promising proposals to that end, particularly market-based projects, crop varieties tailored to local conditions, increased investment in agricultural research, improved access to funding for market-oriented projects and the transfer to developing countries of appropriate agricultural technology. The challenge was to devise agricultural methods sophisticated enough to cater to a market-based, sustainable development model, yet simple enough to match the development realities of the target areas. Israel favoured a bottom-up approach, exemplified by its successful efforts in a number of African countries to take entire communities from aid dependency to self-sufficiency through the use of simple, low-cost drip irrigation techniques. Sufficient resources must be found to extend such simple, affordable and workable models in a systematic and comprehensive manner.

38. Cutting-edge agro-technological innovation required an alliance between scientific research institutions, the political establishment and the private sector; such an alliance lay behind Israel's own achievements in that field and could be a key to improving agriculture development and food security in the developing world.

39. **Mr. Balé** (Republic of the Congo) said that the current food crisis had underscored the failure of the international community to honour its commitments. In particular, the goals set by the first World Food Summit

in 1996 were still distant; indeed, the world food situation had deteriorated further under the combined effects of the recent energy, economic and financial crises and climate change. In that context, he welcomed the international community's efforts to arrive at an integrated approach to the problem, in particular by giving increased importance to agriculture in development policies. Those efforts were reflected in the Comprehensive Framework for Action, which set out the international consensus as to the best ways of combating the world food crisis, in particular by taking into account all its multidimensional aspects, while at the same time calling for a flexible approach, tailored to each country's specific needs and conditions.

40. The Congolese Government, for its part, had undertaken to free the country from its total dependence on food imports through initiatives to achieve food security under commitments made at the 2003 Summit of the African Union, and was currently implementing its National Food Security Programme 2008-2012. It had also launched a number of rural development projects with a view to a lasting improvement in the income levels and food security of poor rural households. The 145 projects carried out with the financial support of its Agriculture Development Fund, which was a pillar of the strategy, had thus given agriculture a central place among the country's economic and social development concerns.

41. Other projects were also under way, with livestock raising as another priority, combined with intensive food-crop production. They were all carried out in accordance with the national strategy for natural ecosystem preservation, since the sustainability of food security entailed efforts to protect the environment, give everyone access to water and energy and ensure that edible plants used to feed the most vulnerable populations did not serve for biofuel in the absence of any other permanent means of meeting their food needs.

42. **Ms. Jayasuriya** (Sri Lanka) said that it was imperative for all Member States to act both individually and collectively to mitigate the consequences of the ongoing crises and prevent their recurrence. Immediate as well as long-term measures were needed to give vulnerable populations greater access to food and to empower rural communities.

43. Successive Sri Lankan Governments had adopted pro-poor, pro-growth development strategies with emphasis on welfare schemes. In their efforts to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, they had redistributed four per cent of GDP to households in need and had brought down the poverty level from 22.7 per cent in 2002 to below 14 per cent in 2008. Having overcome terrorism, the current Government had now renewed its commitment to eradicate the last remaining pockets of poverty in the country and looked forward to the assistance of development partners in meeting that challenge. Enhanced agricultural production, both through extensive cultivation and through methods to secure optimum yields, would make for greater food security, which also called for public and private investment in infrastructure and better market access for rural farm products. Moreover, agriculture had to become competitive in order to recover production costs and lift the rural poor out of the vicious cycle of debt and poverty.

44. Over the past few decades, Sri Lanka had, against considerable odds, expanded its agriculture sector, thanks to investments in technological development, improved productivity and a nation-wide crop production campaign. Agriculture thus currently accounted for 11 per cent of GDP and gave employment to 31 per cent of the labour force.

45. Increased food production would not, however, by itself eliminate the problem of discrepancies in access to food which, in today's globalized world, called for comprehensive and concerted efforts at the national, regional and global levels. Sri Lanka, for its part, had adopted several measures to that end. Furthermore, as the current Chair of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), it believed in countries joining together to help others, as exemplified by the Colombo Declaration aimed at ensuring food security for all the people of South Asia. In that spirit, his country welcomed the current international deliberations on the subject and hoped that the necessary financial support would be found to meet the challenge of ensuring agriculture development and food security for all countries, including the most vulnerable.

46. **Mr. Pankin** (Russian Federation) said that the global food crisis was jeopardizing attainment of the MDGs and could lead to social and political instability in many countries. A result of underinvestment in scientific research, agricultural development and

infrastructure as well as changing consumer trends and demographic and ecological challenges, the crisis was becoming more severe under the impact of the financial and economic crisis.

47. There was consensus on the need for collective short-, medium- and long-term measures to deal with food security. The Declaration of the High-level Conference on World Food Security of June 2008 and the Comprehensive Framework for Action developed by the High-level Task Force on food security provided a solid basis for concerted action at the international and national levels. The Russian Federation was in favour of continued implementation of the Comprehensive Framework with a focus on the national level. The Global Partnership on Food security developed by the G-8 and the High-level Task Force could be effective in aligning the activities and interests of States, civil society, businesses and consumers. It was crucial for the United Nations to show political support for the partnership: the World Summit on Food Security in November 2009 would provide an opportunity to do so. The unprecedented commitment made by the G-8 at its L'Aquila summit to direct more than $20 billion to action on agriculture in the next few years had also been a major step in addressing the food crisis.

48. The Russian Federation was prepared to scale up and modernize its agricultural production to help stabilize global agricultural markets and tackle the problem of hunger. It was also increasing its food aid, humanitarian supplies and agricultural development assistance to developing countries. In the previous eighteen months, Russia had devoted more than $130 million to food security through bilateral and multilateral channels. In 2010, its annual and emergency assistance contributions to the WFP would reach some $30 million.

49. Achieving stability in the world grain market would require giving access to new actors, rectifying the imbalance in effective demand and stabilizing prices by eliminating speculation. The World Grain Forum organized by the Russian Federation in June 2009 had tackled those issues. In addition, agreements must be reached on the principles of regulating agricultural trade and on harmonizing levels of state support for grain production and exports, which would eliminate excessive barriers to world trade and lead to an expanded grain supply. To improve the food aid mechanism, international food and agriculture institution must be modernized so that they were equipped to react effectively to fluctuations in grain prices.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.